

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria/USSR	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Bulgarian Reserve Officers' Training Course in Atomic Battle Tactics	DATE DISTR.	12 October 1955
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. During the period 13-24 July 1955, the Bulgarian Army held a special course of instruction for reserve officers in the Engineers Corps. Lectures were given three times a week, from 6-10 P.M., at the Signal Corps barracks near the Sofia Central Prison. Approximately 150 reserve officers, primarily engineers, architects, and technicians, attended the course. The purpose of this course was to instruct the reserve officers in the new doctrines and techniques of military engineering which have developed from the use of atomic weapons, especially atomic artillery. 25X1
2. During the early part of the course, the following statements were made and served as the basis for subsequent instructions:
  - a. The fact that atomic artillery has become standard equipment in the American army means that the United States has no intention of banning atomic weapons;
  - b. The U.S. atomic shell has a destruction area with a radius of 1200-1600 meters from the point of explosion;
  - c. If they survive the initial shelling, human beings beyond this radius of 1200-1600 meters will not suffer from radiation effects, provided they are entrenched at a depth of at least 50 centimeters and well covered with sacking or any other light material; and
  - d. The radiation effects of the U.S. atomic shell are most dangerous during the first four minutes after the explosion.
3. On the basis of the above-noted phenomena, radical changes in the tactical spacing of frontline battle positions have recently been advocated and are now believed to be standard operating procedure for the Bulgarian army. Under the old operational battle procedure, officers were taught to station the second line structures 100-150 meters behind the first line positions, and the third line positions 400-450 meters behind the second. Now, however,

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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the new operational tactics call for a distance of 600-800 meters between the first and second line positions or trenches (tranchees), and a distance of 1000-1200 meters between the second and third line positions. In addition to lectures on the new system of spacing battle positions, officers are given instructions on the proper methods of covering trenches with sacking.

4. The course for reserve officers also included the following items:
  - a. One instructor mentioned a Soviet invention which enables radar stations to detect the approach of atom bomb-carrying aircraft (sic) at a distance of 500 kilometers; and
  - b. A specialist in the use of small-arms stated that the Soviet Union intends to increase the range of its standard rifles and machine guns, and is designing a new rifle to replace the model currently in use. This instructor stated further that, in a future war, operational importance will shift to comparatively small infantry units, which are widely dispersed, although remaining in contact with one another. In addition to traditional infantry weapons, these units will be supported by self-propelled guns and light tanks.
5. It is understood that reserve officers in all Bulgarian Army units will be required to attend training course similar to the one described above.

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Comment: [redacted] reported that, in April 1955, the Bulgarian Ministry of Defense had instructed certain atomic scientists to prepare a series of lectures on practical and simple atomic defense measures. [redacted] reported that certain reserve units were being called up for three months' duty, reportedly to receive training in the use of new weapons.

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